Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

September 21, 1976

Adam Hochschild, Editor
Mother Jones
607 Market St.
San Francisco, Calif. 94105

Dear Mr. Hochschild:

Howard Bray has told me of his conversation with you. I thank you both.

When he and I first spoke, I had in mind ancillary use of an addition I am making to one of my books in a reprint for which I am preparing. This new formulation appeals to me. However, I would like to be able to think about it because I think a reformulation might improve it, as a story and in social and political usefulness.

Aside from letting you know I am interested, I am writing immediately to ask you to consider more than one piece. I would also like to know if you would or could be interested in a separate piece, or perhaps more than one, on the disinformation operations, "black books" or those that serve the same intelligence purposes. Beginning with the French SDECE operation of 1968, there have been a number. The most recent, whether or not of official sponsorship, are those by Hugh McDonald and Robert Morrow. They are all total fakes. They have ripped off many minds, particularly the more impressionable and vulnerable college generation minds.

I conducted an investigation of McDonald's book for a publisher and the popular newspaper that was considering purchasing ancillary rights. The advances totaled $45,000. As a result, neither would go for the fraud. It is a fraud, so overtly serving official purposes Attorney General Levi has not responded to my demand that he take action. There are, in fact, three <u>different</u> "nonfiction" versions of the McDonald book.

These black books get to the origin of the theories about which Mr. Bray spoke to you. They are literary roofing-nails in the investigative roadway. They destroy all credibility.

They are not even well done because it is not necessary to do them well. Nobody takes the time to think them through. Nobody analyzes anymore. The first two paragraphs of the Morrow book alone establish it as unreal. Nonetheless, the sponsor of the House resolution, retiring Congressman Downing of Virginia, went for this palpable fake and actually held a press conference at which he produced a few nonevidentiary samples of its alleged backstopping, secondhand affidavits of no meaning at all, affidavits of worthless opinion.

In the new Congress, with Downing no longer a member, the liberal Henry Gonzalez is next in line to be chairman. Gonzalez, without any questioning or checking, wrote an introduction to a book now involved in a large suit by E. Howard Hunt. It actually says that Hunt was in Dealey Plaza at the right minute and was photographed there. This is nonsense. Were this not enough, Gonzalez actually held prime JFK evidence, Governor Connally's clothing, in his closet for months. He did nothing about it. He never gave it either to the FBI or the Warren Commission. When he finally gave it to Mrs. Connally, she washed it, destroying its evidentiary value. And he a lawyer!

The situation is no better with what got the resolution passed - involving Members of the Black Caucus and the King assassination. I have done all the basic work on the King assassination for my writing and as Ray's investigator. Thousands and thousands of hours of work. Mark Lane simply stole some of it by pretending to duplicate it with Abby Mann, who is doing a special for NBC. They conned Congressman Fauntroy, who represents the District of Columbia. They told him it is their "new evidence." This turned the Black Caucus on. It is not only copyrighted; May 4 I put it into evidence in a Freedom of Information suit against the Department of Justice.

With this for openers I think you can see that this newest investigation of these great national traumas, those events that turned the world around, does not begin with reassuring prospects and provides both the need for and the possibility of absolutely solid exposes, important journalism.

With a new publication, I suggest it provides the means for Washington attention and wire-service attention.

I have not seen your magazine. I would appreciate a copy and your estimate of how many words you can use in a piece.

If you can use facsimile reproductions of suppressed evidence, I can supply the records. I will be using facsimiles in the addition to the book, as you also can if you would like to. I have obtained an enormous quantity of them, including by use of the Freedom of Information Act under which I have filed more suits than anyone else. I have three in federal district courts in Washington right now and others pending. In one of these the Department of Justice certified that I know more about the subject than anyone in the FBI.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg